APPENDIX B

GENERAL SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

NOVEMBER 2013 – NOVEMBER 2016

NOVEMBER 2013

2.6 Revisiting Settled Abuse Claims

Bishop Garry Weatherill wrote to Archbishop Philip Freier, with copies to the other Metropolitans, expressing concern that he had been approached by solicitors acting for a sexual abuse complainant who had settled the matter and signed a deed of release in 2006 and now wished to reopen the matter. The Bishop expressed concern that if even one diocese did this it could open the floodgates across the country and could have catastrophic impacts on some, smaller dioceses. He raised the question of the possibility of establishing a consistent policy about these issues before they proliferate.

The Metropolitans thought there would be value in having good practice guidelines for mediated settlements.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That a Working Group be established (to be known as The Settlement Guidelines Group) consisting of three persons appointed by the Professional Standards Commission and up to three persons nominated by the Legal Committee of this Standing Committee with the Primate or his nominee as Chair.

2. The Settlement Guidelines Group is to:

   (a) Provide guidelines as to the proper procedures to be adopted by dioceses when considering a settlement of an abuse claim;

   (b) Deal with any allied matter referred to it by the Primate;

   (c) Identify any extraordinary circumstances that might justify review of concluded settlements.

(SC2013/2/5)
2.7 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Primate advised the Standing Committee that he has been interviewed by Counsel assisting the Royal Commission in relation to the North Coast Children’s Home in Grafton Diocese and his dealings as Primate with the former Bishop of Grafton, complainants and their legal representatives. He has been summoned as a witness before the Public hearing scheduled for the fortnight beginning 18 November 2013. At his request the General Secretary has briefed solicitors Dibbs Barker and Counsel Patrick Griffin, who attended the interview with the Royal Commission staff, as did the General Secretary.

The Brisbane Director of Professional Standards has also been summoned as he has assisted the Primate in his Primatial role. It is understood that the former Bishop of Grafton, the former Registrar and the Director of Professional Standards for that Diocese will also appear, and that the Diocese of Newcastle has produced documents related to this matter dating back to the 1950s.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the General Secretary be requested to write to all Diocesan Bishops to emphasise the need to enter all known Information onto the National Register promptly and to search the National Register before making appointments.
2. That the General Secretary also be requested to advise Dioceses, when served with summons to produce documents, not to incur legal costs unnecessarily taking legal advice on substantive issues before the Royal Commission has informed them of the issues which it intends to explore.

(SC2013/2/6)

It was RESOLVED:
1. That the report of the General Secretary dated 16 October 2013 be received.
2. That the Standing Committee urge Diocesan Bishops and Directors of Professional Standards to ensure that the National Register be kept up to date at all times.
3. That the General Secretary be requested to report on progress to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.
4. That the General Secretary be requested to arrange an opportunity for training on the upgraded National Register software at the meeting of the Directors of Professional Standards on 5-7 February 2014.

(SC2013/2/29)


It was RESOLVED:
1. That the report of the General Secretary dated 11 October 2013 be received.
2. That the Standing Committee ratify the retention of legal representation for the Primate and Mr Rod McLary, Director of Professional Standards for the Province of Queensland, in connection with the public hearing into the North Coast Children's Home to be conducted by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse from 18 November 2013 and authorise the payment of legal fees anticipated to be in the region of $45,000.00 to be funded as proposed in the report.
3. That the Standing Committee urge dioceses and Church organisations to make timely responses to the Royal Commission Working Group’s requests for information and to engage in developing practical solutions to obstacles encountered.

(SC2013/2/31)
MAY 2014


It was RESOLVED:

1. That the report of the Professional Standards Commission dated 23 April 2014 and the supplementary report of Garth Blake dated 13 May 2014 be received.

2. That the Standing Committee refer the Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Membership of the Appellate Tribunal) Canon and the Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Appeals to the Appellate Tribunal) Canon to the Church Law Commission to consider and to report as to how the membership of the Appellate Tribunal might be addressed to deal with conflicts of interest.

3. That the Standing Committee note the review of the report of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Sex Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations.

4. That the Standing Committee recommend the attached revised Curriculum for training of members of Professional Standards Committees and Boards as a resource for dioceses.

5. That the General Secretary:
   (a) circulate this resource:
       (i) to the Bishop and Director of Professional Standards of each diocese and the Australian Defence Force with a request that it be forwarded to the chairperson of the diocesan Professional Standards Committee and Professional Standards Board or equivalent and any Episcopal Standards Committee, Episcopal Standards Board and Episcopal Standards Review Board;
       (ii) the Director of Episcopal Standards;
   (b) publish this resource on the General Synod website.

6. That the Standing Committee request the Professional Standards Commission, in consultation with interested parties, to develop a proposal for minimum criteria for care and assistance schemes for consideration at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

(see Attachment 1)

It was RESOLVED:
1. (a) That the Royal Commission Working Group be requested to convene a conference of representatives of all dioceses, Anglican Schools Australia, Anglicare Australia, parachurch organisations, the Professional Standards Commission and the Directors of Professional Standards to agree on mechanisms for:
   (i) Gathering information necessary to assess the Church’s policies and procedures to prevent and to respond to child sexual abuse and to assess the Church’s performance in the implementation of those policies and procedures;
   (ii) Coming to a common position on what are appropriate policies, procedures and implementation, having regard to reasonable community expectations;
   (iii) Coming to a common position on recommendations to be made by the Royal Commission and;
   (iv) Making representations to governments concerning the Royal Commission’s recommendations.

(b) That the General Secretary engage in dialogue with the Diocesan Secretary with a view to the Dioceses of Sydney hosting such a conference.

(SC2014/1/7)


It was RESOLVED:
1. That the Standing Committee request the Professional Standards Commission, in consultation with interested parties, to develop a proposal for minimum criteria for care and assistance schemes for consideration at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

(SC2014/1/28)
NOVEMBER 2014

12.3 Model Episcopal Standards Ordinance and Protocol

It was RESOLVED:
1. That the Report be received.

2. That the Standing Committee note the following editorial changes to the Model Episcopal Standards Ordinance:

   (a) substitute “Diocesan Bishop” for “Archbishop” and “Diocesan Council” for “Bishop-in-Council” and “Archbishop-in-Council” wherever appearing;

   (b) delete the references to “Subscribing Dioceses” and related text as this seems to suggest that the document is for provincial implementation;

   (c) delete the words in brackets appearing after “Alternative” on the first and second lines on page 57.

3. That subject to the editorial amendments noted in paragraph 2 above, the Standing Committee commends the Model Episcopal Standards Ordinance for adoption by dioceses.

4. That the Standing Committee commends for adoption by a diocese which enacts the Model Episcopal Standards Ordinance the Model Episcopal Standards Protocol and Regulations attached to this report.

(SC2014/3/24)

(see Attachment 2)
12.4 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

(Document No. 2014-146).

It was RESOLVED:

1. That the report of the General Secretary dated 10 November 2014 be received.

2. That the Standing Committee endorse the Royal Commission Working Group’s proposal to hold a conference on 13 February 2015 to develop a response to the Royal Commission’s foreshadowed paper on a scheme to provide redress to survivors of child sexual abuse.

3. That the Standing Committee defer consideration of the Settlement Guidelines proposed by the Settlements Guidelines Group at page 321 of the papers for this meeting to allow for them to be considered at the conference referred to in paragraph 1.

4. That the Standing Committee endorse in principle the Royal Commission Working Group’s proposal for the conference on professional standards matters to be held on 1 and 2 August 2015.

5. That the Royal Commission Working Group be requested to add to the agenda for the conference in paragraph 4 above, consideration of the development of a database of decisions or determinations relating to professional standards matters.

6. That the General Secretary be requested to refer to relevant Commissions and Church bodies the Royal Commission’s research reports and to request the Commissions and Church bodies to provide comments and recommendations to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

7. That the Royal Commission Working Group be requested to commence a process of seeking the advice and assistance of survivors of child sexual abuse or appropriate support groups to develop a response to the discussion paper on redress schemes for survivors of child sexual abuse which the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse proposes to publish in January 2015.

8. That the Professional Standards Commission be requested to consider and report on the provision of counselling and pastoral care for survivors and perpetrators of child sexual abuse, those who work with survivors and perpetrators and those who administer professional standards processes relating to child sexual abuse.

9. The Standing Committee requests the General Secretary to convey to the Royal Commission Working Group its appreciation for the work it has been doing.

(SC2014/3/25)
12.6 National Register – disclosure of Information for diocesan professional standards audits

It was RESOLVED:

1. That the Standing Committee revises section 22 of the Protocol for Access to and Disclosure of Information in the National Register made under the National Register Canon 2007 set out in the marked up version below:

Any person within the General Synod Office whose duties include assisting the General Secretary in maintaining the National Register is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register for the purposes of:

(a) providing assistance to another authorised person and carrying out any maintenance or enhancement of the National Register; and

(b) disclosing to a person duly authorised by the Bishop of a diocese to conduct an audit or other formal review of compliance by personnel of that diocese with duties under the National Register Canon 2007 and the protocols made thereunder subject to the person so authorised signing a confidentiality agreement in a form approved by the General Secretary.

(SC2014/3/27)
### 12.8 Reporting historical child sexual abuse to the Police and other activities

(Document No. 2014-160)

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That this report be received.

2. That the Standing Committee recommends the attached revised Reporting historical child sexual abuse to the Police as a resource for dioceses for their consideration.

3. That the General Secretary:
   
   a. circulate this resource to the Bishop and Director of Professional Standards of each diocese and the Australian Defence Force;
   
   b. publish this resource on the General Synod website.

(SC2014/3/29)

(see Attachment 3)
12.1 Seal of the Confessional – Canon Concerning Confessions 1989
(Document No. 2015-011).

It was RESOLVED:
1. That the report of the Hon. Justice Debra Mullins, Chair of the
   Confessions Working Group, dated 21 April 2015 be received.
2. The Standing Committee advise the Dioceses that the Church Law
   Commission has reported there is a significant question over the
   validity of the 2014 Canon on the basis that the procedure for a special
   bill should have been followed and that Dioceses should not adopt the
   2014 Canon.
3. The Standing Committee refer the subject matter of the 2014 Canon to
   the House of Bishops to consider all liturgical and theological issues
   raised by the subject matter of the 2014 Canon and for advice on how
   the primary purpose of the 2014 Canon can be achieved;
4. Any advice from the Bishops be circulated to the Doctrine Commission,
   the Professional Standards Commission, the Church Law Commission
   and the Confessions Working Group for their consideration;
5. After further advice is obtained from the Bishops, the Doctrine
   Commission, Professional Standards Commission, the Church Law
   Commission and the Confessions Working Group, the Standing
   Committee promote the repeal of the 2014 Canon and a fresh proposal
   for dealing with the subject matter of the 2014 Canon at the next
   General Synod.

(SC2015/1/20)

12.2 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual
    Abuse
(Document No. 2015-030)

It was RESOLVED:
1. That the report of the General Secretary dated 27 April 2015 be
   received.
2. That Standing Committee note the Anglican Church of Australia
   submission to the Royal Commission in response to the Consultation
3. That Standing Committee note the proposed date for the Professional
   Standards Conference has been changed from 1-2 August 2015 to a
   date to be determined in early 2016.

(SC2015/1/21)
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<tr>
<th>12.3</th>
<th>Faithfulness in Service – Definition of Bullying</th>
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<td>It was <strong>RESOLVED</strong> that the report from Professional Standards Commission be deferred to the November 2015 meeting of Standing Committee.</td>
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**SC2015/1/22**

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<tr>
<th>12.4</th>
<th>National Register Operational Report and Annual Audit 2014</th>
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<tr>
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<td>(Document No. 2015-033)</td>
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<td>It was <strong>RESOLVED</strong>:</td>
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<td>1. That the General Secretary’s report dated 29 April 2015 on the operation of the National Register for 2014 be received.</td>
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<td>2. That the audit report of Nexia Australia dated 29 April 2015 be received.</td>
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<td>3. That Nexia Australia be retained to conduct the audit of the National Register for 2015 using Australian Accounting Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000: Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information.</td>
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**SC2015/1/23**

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<tr>
<th>12.5</th>
<th>Diocesan Professional Standards Audits</th>
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<tr>
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<td>(Document No. 2015-034).</td>
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<td>It was <strong>RESOLVED</strong>:</td>
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<td>1. That the report of the General Secretary dated 28 April 2015 be received.</td>
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<td>2. That the General Secretary review and confirm the cost structure of the Professional Standards Audit proposal from Nexia Australia and circulate updated information to all dioceses.</td>
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**SC2015/1/24**
## NOVEMBER 2015

**12.1 Royal Commission Working Group Report**  
(Document No. 2015-080)

It was **RESOLVED**:

The report of the General Secretary dated 5 November 2015 was received.  

(SC2015/2/14)

Standing Committee expressed its appreciation of the work of the Royal Commission Working Group.

**12.2 Royal Commission Summons – National Register**  
(Document No. 2015-065)

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. The report from the General Secretary on the response to the summons from the Royal Commission seeking records held on the National Register was received.

2. Standing Committee noted the need for a national consistent approach and encouraged the Professional Standards Commission to work with the Chair and Directors of Professional Standards units of each diocese, with a view to recommending a protocol to Standing Committee relating to the sharing of confidential information, and to report back to Standing Committee in November 2016.  

(SC2015/2/15)

**12.3 Royal Commission’s Request for Statement from Anglican Bishops**  
(Document No. 2015-066)

It was **RESOLVED**:

The report from the General Secretary dated 2 November 2015 was received.  

(SC2015/2/16)
12.4 Response to Royal Commission Report on Redress and Civil Litigation
(Document No. 2015-067)

It was RESOLVED:

Standing Committee encouraged further exploration and consultation in regard to the establishment of an independent, incorporated entity to manage redress services on behalf of the dioceses and Anglican entities that choose to use its services, and requests the RCWG to come back with a detailed proposal to the meeting of Standing Committee in May 2016, following consultation with dioceses and Anglican entities.

(SC2015/2/17)

12.5 Professional Standards Commission Report
(Document No. 2015-088).

It was RESOLVED:

1. The report of Mr Garth Blake SC dated 10 November 2015 was received.

2. Standing Committee recommended the attached Faithfulness in Service DVD Discussion Guide, as amended, as a resource for dioceses.

3. The General Secretary:
   (a) circulate this resource to the Bishop and Director of Professional Standards of each diocese and the Australian Defence Force; and
   (b) publish this resource on the General Synod website.

(SC2015/2/18)

(see Attachment 4)
12.6 Faithfulness in Service – Revisions
(Document No. 2015-091).

It was RESOLVED:

Standing Committee thanked the Professional Standards Commission for its work on the revision of Faithfulness in Service and asked the Professional Standards Commission to circulate the draft revisions to dioceses for comment and to report back to Standing Committee in May 2016.

(SC2015/2/19)
### MAY 2016

#### 6.1 Seal of the Confessional – Canon Concerning Confessions 1989
(Document No. SC2016-049)

Standing Committee resolved to send the report from the Doctrine Commission on amending the *Canon Concerning Confessions 1989* to:

1. the Professional Standards Commission and the Confessions Working Group for their consideration, with a request that they consider it as soon as practicable and send feedback directly to the Church Law Commission; and
2. the Church Law Commission, with the request that they begin work on drafting a new *Canon Concerning Confessions 1989 Amendment Bill*, to be promoted as a special bill at the 2017 session of General Synod, where the provisions of the bill take into account the principles outlined in the resolution of the national bishops on this matter.

*(SC2016/1/18)*

#### 9.3 Episcopal Standards and Retired Bishops
(Document No. SC2016-085)

It was resolved:

1. Standing Committee received the report of the Chair of the Church Law Commission dated 12 April 2016 and endorsed the recommendation at 20(b) of the report.
2. Standing Committee requested the General Secretary to send a copy of the report to all diocesan bishops drawing their attention to recommendation 20(b).

*(SC2016/1/24)*
Standing Committee requested
(a) the Church Law Commission to prepare draft legislation which would amend the Holy Orders, Relinquishment and Deposition Canon 2004 so as to allow:
   (i) a bishop to relinquish or be deposed from the order of bishop, yet retain the order of priest or deacon; and
   (ii) a priest to relinquish or be deposed from the order of priest, yet retain the order of deacon.
(b) the Doctrine Commission in consultation with the Church Law Commission to report on any theological implications of such a proposition.

(SC2016/1/25)

Following an extended discussion on episcopal standards the following resolution was confirmed:
Standing Committee encouraged the Metropolitans and the Bishop of Tasmania have a facilitated discussion regarding the differences and common ground concerning the Episcopal Standards legislation to ascertain a way forward towards a substantially uniform process for Bishops.

(SC2016/1/26)
NOVEMBER 2016

12.1 Royal Commission Working Group Report
(Document Nos. SC2016-200 to SC2016-203)

Standing Committee received the report of the General Secretary dated 24 October 2016. (SC2016/2/24)

12.2 Response to the Royal Commission Report on Redress and Civil Litigation
(Document Nos. SC2016-208 to SC2016-210) and Supplementary Report
(Document Nos. SC2016-278)

1. Standing Committee received the report on the Royal Commission Working Group’s (RCWG) consultation process in regard to the establishment of an independent, incorporated entity to manage redress services on behalf of the dioceses and Anglican entities that choose to use its services and the supplementary report of the General Secretary dated 17 November 2016.

2. Standing Committee expressed its appreciation for the pro-bono assistance provided by King & Wood Mallesons to support the Redress Scheme consultation process.

12.2.1 1. Standing Committee authorised the General Secretary and Mr Garth Blake SC to accept the invitation, extended by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, to work with the Department’s Redress Task Force on the development of the Commonwealth Redress Scheme.

2. Standing Committee authorised the General Secretary to obtain legal advice up to a value of $25,000 to facilitate Anglican engagement with the Commonwealth as it develops its Redress Scheme and the participation of Anglican dioceses and institutions in that scheme.

3. Standing Committee resolved that the costs of such legal work be met from:
   a) in the first instance, any surplus able to be achieved in the Statutory Fund in the 2017 year, or
   a) in the second instance, from the Reserve Fund in 2017 with an expectation that the Reserve Fund will be reimbursed by the Statutory Fund in equal instalments over a three year period commencing in 2018.

4. Standing Committee requested the Royal Commission Working Group to provide a progress report on their seeking such legal advice. (SC2016/2/25)

Commonwealth Redress Scheme

Standing Committee,

i. urges the dioceses and organisations of the Anglican church of Australia to continue to care for and support survivors,

ii. endorses the Primate’s welcoming the independent redress scheme.
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<td>iii.</td>
<td>supports the proposal in principle while awaiting detail of that scheme,</td>
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<td>iv.</td>
<td>commits to work constructively with Federal and State governments in delivering redress to survivors of child sexual abuse.</td>
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(SC2016/2/26)

12.3 **Principles for the use of names of persons who perpetrated, or failed to take action in relation to child sexual abuse.**  
*(Document Nos. SC2016-206 to SC2016-207)*

1. Standing Committee recommended the attached principles for the use of names of persons who perpetrated, or failed to take action in relation to child sexual abuse to dioceses and Anglican bodies.
2. Standing Committee requested the General Secretary to:
   a. circulate the principles to the Bishop, Registrar and Director of Professional Standards of each diocese and the Australian Defence Force;
   b. circulate the principles to Anglican schools and other Anglican organisations; and
   c. publish the principles on the General Synod website.

(SC2016/2/27)

*(see Attachment 5)*
12.5
12.5.1 Faithfulness in Service – Proposed and Further Revisions
SC2016-272 to SC2016-275)

1. Standing Committee received reports of the Professional Standards

2. Standing Committee revised Faithfulness in Service as set out in the
attached Recommendations of Amendments to Faithfulness in Service

3. Standing Committee requested the General Secretary to:
   (a) publish these revisions and Faithfulness in Service incorporating
       these revisions on the General Synod website;
   (b) notify the Bishop and Registrar of each diocese, and the
       Australian Defence Force, of these revisions to Faithfulness in
       Service.

4. Standing Committee asked the General Secretary to request Diocesan
Bishops to provide a copy of Schedule 1 and 2 to the Bishops
Statements provided to the Royal Commission into Institutional
Reponses to Child Sexual Abuse, to assist Standing Committee’s
understanding of each diocese’s adoption of recommendations and
resources promoted by the General Synod and the Standing
Committee, in particular the adoption of Faithfulness in Service.
   (SC2016/2/29)

(see Attachment 6)
12.8 Ministry Suitability Information Protocol Canon 2017
(Document No. SC2016-190 to SC2016-192)

Standing Committee referred the following Bill to the Church Law Commission for review and a response prior to the next meeting of the Standing Committee in February 2017:

(SC2016/2/33)

12.9 Diocesan responsibility for disciplinary action
(Document Nos. SC2016-270 to SC2016-271)


2. Standing Committee recommended that each diocese adopt and implement the attached Protocol for determining the responsibility of dioceses for disciplining Church workers for misconduct.

3. Standing Committee requested the General Secretary to:
   (a) circulate this Protocol to the Bishop and Director of Professional Standards of each diocese and the Australian Defence Force;
   (b) publish this Protocol on the General Synod website.

(SC2016/2/34)

(see Attachment 7)
National - Register Protocol For Access to and Disclosure of Information - Standing Committee Procedure  
(Document Nos. SC2016-263 to SC2016-264)

1. Standing Committee revised the National Register – Protocol for Access to and Disclosure of Information in the National Register by amending Section 20A to delete the words “the Professional Standards’ and replacing them with “a Reference”, as set out below:

S20A
Where the Primate seeks the advice of the Standing Committee regarding the appointment of a member of the Professional Standards a Reference Commission under s 14 of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998, and a person expresses interest in the appointment, the General Secretary, where required to by the procedures of the Standing Committee for giving advice regarding such an appointment, is authorized to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the person, and the Standing Committee.

2. Standing Committee requested the General Secretary to:
   (a) publish these revisions and the Protocol incorporating these revisions on the General Synod website;
   (b) notify the Bishop and Registrar of each diocese, and the Bishop of the Australian Defence Force, of these revisions.

(SC2016/2/35)

(see Attachment 8)
| 12.11 | **Policy for Safe Ministry with Persons of Concern**  
(Document Nos. SC2016-276 to SC2016-277) |
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<td>Standing Committee received the report of the Professional Standards Commission dated 11 November 2016 and requested the Professional Standards Commission to revise the draft policy in the light of the discussion at Standing Committee.</td>
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